(c) whether this represent a major break-through for AEC as it is moving from coal to gas-based power generation; and

(d) if so, what will be the total cost and expenditure involved and whether any help has been sought from the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FOWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (d) In May, 1988, the Government of Gujarat accorded permission to the Ahmedabad Electricity Company for setting up a 100 MW combined cycle gas-based power plant near Ahmedabad which is envisaged as the first gas-based power plant of the Company. The gas availability for the proposed power project remains to be confirmed.

The estimated cost of the proposed project is about Rs. 140 crores. No assistance has been sought from the Central Government.

Government's liberal policy on technology imports

2891. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Union Minister has pulled up industry for its failure to strengthen the research and development base despite Government's liberal policy on technology imports;

(b) if so, whether the Minister has pointed out that instead of giving utmost importance to generation upgradation, absorption and adaptation of the imported technology, the industrial units depended solely on their collaboration and associates;

(c) whether the Minister has also pointed out that the production of the Indian Industry was far below acceptable norms of international standards; and

(d) if so, what are the main reasons for the same and what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) Industry is being constantly urged to strengthen their research and development base so that indigenous technologies could be developed, and imported technologies could be absorbed, adapted and improved upon to suit Indian conditions. In the case of large value foreign collaborations, the efforts made by the Indian company to absorb and adapt the imported technology are monitored.

(c) and (d) Industry is also being urged to improve their productivity and reduce their cost of production so that they can remain competitive both in internal and external markets. Modernisation and technology upgradation is being encouraged by the Goverment with a view to improving the efficiency of the industry.

Recognition to Trade Unions by BHEL

2892. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what are the trade unions recognised by BHEL at various plants/locations as per the procedure laid down alongwith their affiliations to National Trade Union Organisations;

(b) what is the procedure laid down by BHEL for recognition of trade unions;

(c) whether perks, powers, facilities and concessions are given to the Presidents and General Secretaries of the recognisd unions; and

(d) what is the present status granted by BHEL to office-bearers of non-recognised/ illegal unions?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGALRAO): (a) The list of Unions recognised or treated as recognised by BHEL is at Statement (*See* below).